



**2014  
Jefferson Cup**

**AWARD**

**U.S. HISTORY  
HISTORICAL FICTION  
BIOGRAPHY**

*Presented by  
Youth Services Forum  
of the Virginia Library Association*



## JUVENILE

### Bluffton

by Matt Phelan. Candlewick Press, 2013. (1908) Grades 3–7.

This novel is a beautiful watercolor trip back to 1908 Muskegon, Michigan where vaudeville actors spend their summers. Although today's tweens and teens might not know Buster Keaton, the relationship between the comedian and the fictional children, Henry and Sally is realistic and easy to relate to. Full of pranks, jokes and baseball, the plot does not shy away from the darker side of the actor's life: the allegations of abuse and alcoholism. It is a gentle coming of age story that focuses on finding personal paths through youth into adulthood and the friendships that can develop along the way.

### HONOR BOOKS

### Matchbox Diary, The

by Paul Fleischman. Candlewick, 2013. (early 1900s to today) Grades K–3.

"What is a diary?" asks the young girl. Usually it is a book people write in to remember what happens in their life. What if you can't read or write? Paul Fleischman weaves a magical tale to answer that question. *The Matchbox Diary* is a story of immigration, the longing for a better life, to learn to read and write, and a fascination with boxes and preservation. The young girl is told to pick a memento from her great-grandfather's curio filled home and he will tell her a story. She learns the story of his life through objects he collected and saved in matchboxes.

### Voices of Pearl Harbor

by Sherry Garland. Pelican Publishing, 2013. (1941) Grades 3–7.

The attack at Pearl Harbor changed the course of American history. Garland brings the history alive by choosing to tell the story through the voices of many who would have been directly and immediately affected by the event. Readers hear from an anxious Japanese mother whose only son is a pilot in the Imperial Navy, an American admiral confident of the safety of the Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbor, an Army nurse blissfully dancing the night away on December 6, a Private with the Army Signal Corps who spots a swarm of aircraft heading to Hawaii early on a Sunday morning — each voice adding to the building tension of what the reader knows is imminent.

Some of the voices are real people — Admiral Kimmel, USN, Vice-Admiral Nagumo, Imperial Japanese Navy, Dorie Miller, mess attendant on the USS West Virginia. The use of actual participants lends authenticity to this splendid account of the attack on Pearl Harbor and its aftermath. Johnson's paintings are sumptuous and add to the overall excellence of this book.

### SERIES WORTHY OF NOTE

### National Geographic Readers

With captivating photographs and illustrations, quotes taken directly from the subjects, and an easy-to-read format, the *National Geographic Readers* series of early reader books are perfect for curious Pre-Ks, Kindergarteners, and readers through third grade.

This series features large text and simple sentence structure, and is an excellent introduction to biography and non-fiction for young readers. New or difficult words are accompanied by pronunciation help, and featured in a glossary. Quotes from the books' subjects are individually boxed and highlighted throughout, for an interesting first-person viewpoint. The books are broken down into logical sections of the subject's life and every book includes a Table of Contents.

The books create serious visual appeal with bright illustrations and photographs, timetables, and diagrams. There is a section in each book for "awesome facts" about the subject, in addition to fun facts highlighted in boxes throughout the text. These elements hold a young readers attention, rather than distract from it. There is also a fun quiz in every book so that each child can become a "Quiz Whiz"!

These books will encourage a love of reading and of non-fiction in your young students or patrons.



## YOUNG ADULT

### Brotherhood

by A. B. Westrick. Viking, 2013. (1867) Grades 5–9.

For many people, the War never ended. In the South, there is no need to explain which War. There is only one that continues to be talked about, thought about and re-enacted. The Civil War was the great divider and has been the subject of many books. However, the aftermath of that cataclysmic event is rarely examined.

A. B. Westrick's book for young adults, *Brotherhood*, has taken on the task of this examination. 1867 in Richmond, Virginia, fourteen year old Shad is left with no father, a shattered mother and an older brother anxious to take on the role of head of household. In a time that moves much too fast, Shad becomes witness to a society of men no longer able to take care of their families in a city that no longer makes sense to them.

Westrick tells a complicated chapter in history with empathy and balance. *Brotherhood* is a brilliant and moving story of one young man's discovery of the way to be.

### HONOR BOOKS

#### “President Has Been Shot!”: the Assassination of John F. Kennedy

By James L. Swanson. Scholastic Press, 2013. (1963) Grades 7–12.

James Swanson presents a compelling account of the Kennedy assassination that recreates the same narrative momentum of his earlier work *Chasing Lincoln's Killer*. Early on, Swanson acquaints readers with the major themes of the early 1960's, such as Civil Rights and the efforts to contain Communism, that provide contextual backdrop to the assassination. The focus and strength of the book, however, lies in its coverage of 5 horrible days in November 1963 when Kennedy arrives in Dallas. Swanson does an excellent job of keeping the pace exciting as we retrace the footsteps of the President and Oswald. Younger readers will find themselves drawn into the account of the moment by moment breakdown of Oswald firing from the book depository. Building on this fast paced storyline are well rendered maps and graphic outlines that detail bullet trajectories and the assassin's escape route. Teens looking for a captivating read of a historical event will surely enjoy *The President Has Been Shot*.

### Seeing Red

By Kathryn Erskine. Scholastic Press, 2013. (1972) Grades 5–9.

The summer of 1972 was exceedingly difficult for Red Porter. Everything is different. His father just passed away, his mother plans to sell the family land and businesses to move the family from Stony Gap Virginia to Ohio. Red had to prove he could run the family gas station and repair shop, “Porter's: We Fix it Right”. Even though he'd been working on cars all along right beside his dad no one thought a twelve year old could really be that responsible. He had to prove that he and Beau could run the family convenience store the “What-You-Want” just as before. He was willing to go to any lengths to sabotage his mother's plans even if it meant joining the neighbor bully's gang—the brotherhood. But he didn't know to what lengths racial intolerance could go and how it would impact his best friend, Thomas. Red discovers a century old injustice committed by his ancestors and as Kathryn Erskine wrote “Discover the past, understand the present, change the future”. Red does.

### SERIES WORTHY OF NOTE

#### Captured History

Published by Compass Point Books. Grades 6–9.

The 2013 entries to this series include *Civil War Witness: Mathew Brady's Photos Reveal the Horrors of War! and Assassination and its Aftermath: How a Photograph Reassured a Shocked Nation*. These two nonfiction books cover the Civil War and the assassination of John F. Kennedy. Each book concisely and objectively analyzes the cultural and historic importance of selected iconic photographs from key historical periods. The back matter of each book contains a timeline, glossary, source notes and a bibliography as well as suggested ways to incorporate Common Core standards. These books provide children with a contextual visual reference to significant periods in American history.

Other Titles in the Series: *Birmingham 1963: How a Photograph Rallied Civil Rights Support; The Blue Marble: How a Photograph Revealed Earth's Fragile Beauty; Breaker Boys: How a Photograph Helped End Child Labor; Little Rock Girl 1957: How a Photograph Changed the Fight for Integration; Man on the Moon: How a Photograph Made Anything Seem Possible; Migrant Mother: How a Photograph Defined the Great Depression; Raising the Flag: How a Photograph Gave a Nation Hope in Wartime*



# Our Jefferson Cup Overfloweth

## U.S. HISTORY • HISTORICAL FICTION • BIOGRAPHY

**Becoming Babe Ruth** by Matt Tavares. Candlewick Press, 2013. (1895-1948) Grades K-3.

**Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers' Strike of 1909** by Michelle Markel. Balzar + Bray, 2013. (1909) Grades P-1.

**Brick by Brick** by Charles R. Smith Jr. Amistad, 2013. (1790s) Grades K-3.

**Cooper and the Enchanted Metal Detector** by Adam Osterweil. Namelos, 2013. (20<sup>th</sup> Century) Grades 5-9.

**Duke** by Kirby Larson. Scholastic Press, 2013. (1944) Grades 3-7.

**Etched in Clay: the Life of Dave, Enslaved Potter and Poet** by Andrea Cheng. Lee & Low Books Inc., 2013. (1834-1864) Grades 3-7.

**Fallout** by Todd Strasser. Candlewick Press, 2013. (1962) Grades 5-9.

**Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table** by Jacqueline Briggs Martin. Readers to Eaters, 2013. (1949-2008) Grades K-3.

**Finding Zasha** by Randi Barrow. Scholastic Press, 2013. (1941) Grades 3-7.

**Gingersnap** by Patricia Reilly Giff. Wendy Lamb Books, 2013. (1944) Grades 3-7.

**Hey, Charleston: the True Story of the Jenkins Orphanage Band** by Anne Rockwell. Carolrhoda Books, 2013. (1891-1920's) Grades P-1.

**Lincoln's Grave Robbers** by Steve Sheinkin. Scholastic Press, 2013. (1876) Grades 5-9.

**Lost Kingdom** by Matthew J. Kirby. Scholastic, Press, 2013. (1753) Grades 3-7.

**Marked Man: the Assassination of Malcolm X, A** by Matt Doeden. Twenty-First Century Books, 2013. (1925-1965) Grades 5-9.

**Master George's People: George Washington, His Slaves, and His Revolutionary Transformation** by Marfé Ferguson Delano. National Geographic, 2013. (1732-1799) Grades 3-7.

**Muckers** by Sandra Neil Wallace. Alfred A. Knopf, 2013. (1950) Grades 7-12.

**My Beautiful Hippie** by Janet Nichols Lynch. Holiday House, 2013. (1967) Grades 9-12.

**Navigating Early** by Clare Vanderpool. Delacorte Press, 2013. (1945) Grades 5-9.

**One Came Home** by Amy Timberlake. Alfred A. Knopf, 2013. (1871) Grades 3-7.

**Other Side of Free, The** by Krista Russell. Peachtree, 2013. (1739) Grades 5-9.

**Out of the Easy** by Ruta Sepetys. Philomel Books, 2013. (1950s) Grades 9-12.

**Paperboy** by Vince Vawter. Delacorte Press, 2013. (1959) Grades 5-9.

**Radio Girl** by Carol Brendler. Holiday House, 2013. (1938) Grades 5-9.

**Revolutionary Friends: General George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette** by Selene Castrovilla. Calkins Creek, 2013. (1777) Grades 3-7.

**Tillie Pierce: Teen Eyewitness to the Battle of Gettysburg** by Tanya Anderson. Twenty-First Century Books, 2013. (1863) Grades 5-9.

**What I Came to Tell You** by Tommy Hays. Egmont USA, 2013. (2011) Grades 3-7.

**Year of the Jungle** by Suzanne Collins. Scholastic Press, 2013. (1960s) Grades K-3.

**Yoko Ono: Collector of Skies** by Nell Beram. Amulet Books, 2013. (1933-Present) Grades 7-12.



For information about the award or to submit a nomination, please contact:

**Susan Catlett, 2015 Chair**

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**Eligibility**

- The book must be an original work published in the year prior to the selection.
- The book must be about U.S. history, an American person, or fiction that highlights the United States' past, 1492 to the present.
- The author must reside in the United States.
- The book must be published for young people.
- The book must be accurate, informative, well researched, unbiased, literate, and give a clear and interesting picture of America's past.

**Selection**

The Jefferson Cup Committee selects the winning books. The committee has nine members: a chairperson selected by the previous year's committee, six individuals representing the six regions in the state, the outgoing chairperson of the Youth Services Forum (YSF), and the outgoing Jefferson Cup Award Committee chairperson.

**2014 Jefferson Cup  
Award Committee**

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